

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EURE-00 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 CPR-01 /055 W
-----111615Z 018640 /43

P R 111541Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8176
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08132

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MILI GW UR US
SUBJECT: CINCGSFG VISIT TO CINCUSAREUR (CERVINE TWIST)

REFS: (A) CINCUSAREUR DTG 041420Z MAY 77;
(B) BONN 3954 DTG 041631Z MAY 77;
(C) STATE 43640 DTG 261936Z FEB 77

BEGIN SUMMARY: CINCUSAREUR HAS REQUESTED THE
ASSISTANCE OF THE EMBASSY IN OBTAINING GUIDANCE ON
PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECTS OF THE JULY VISIT BY CINCGSFG
AND ON THE EXTENT AND TYPE OF HONORS CEREMONY THAT WOULD
BE APPROPRIATE. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR
RESPONDING TO USAREUR REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL BLANCHARD, CINCUSAREUR, HAS DISCUSSED WITH
THE AMBASSADOR THE PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
FORTHCOMING VISIT OF CINCGSFG. USAREUR NEEDS GUIDANCE
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ON MEDIA COVERAGE DURING THE VISIT AND ON THE EXTENT
AND TYPE OF HONORS CEREMONY TO BE GIVEN CINCGSFG. AS
DECISIONS CONCERNING THE VISIT WERE MADE AT
A HIGH LEVEL AND THE DEPARTMENT HAS EXPRESSED
PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON PUBLICITY (PARA 4, REF C), WE ARE
REFERRING THESE QUESTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR EARLY
CONSIDERATION. USAREUR'S PLANS FOR THE VISIT ITSELF

WILL TO SOME EXTENT BE INFLUENCED BY THE POLICY TO BE
APPLIED WITH RESPECT TO MEDIA COVERAGE.

2. EMBASSY PRELIMINARY VIEWS ARE AS FOLLOWS.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VISIT. AS THE VISIT IS
SCHEDULED FOR JULY 19-20 (REF A), WE THINK THAT A SHORT
PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES SHOULD BE
ISSUED AROUND JUNE 1 BY USAREUR OR POSSIBLY BY THE
EMBASSY:

BEGIN TEXT.

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE GROUP OF SOVIET FORCES
IN GERMANY, GENERAL IVANOVSKIY, AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF
HIS STAFF WILL VISIT HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY EUROPE AND
A US ARMY TRAINING AREA ON JULY 19 AND 20 AS GUESTS
OF GENERAL BLANCHARD, COMMANDER IN CHIEF, US ARMY
EUROPE. THE VISIT WILL BE IN RETURN FOR A VISIT BY THE
CINCUSAREUR TO THE CINCGSFG IN SEPTEMBER 1973.

END TEXT.

3. THE PURPOSE OF THIS SHORT ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE TO
PUT THE VISIT ON THE PUBLIC RECORD EARLY, IN AN EFFORT
TO FORESTALL UNNECESSARY SPECULATION OR THE NEED TO
RESPOND TO PRESS INQUIRIES IF INFORMATION ON THE VISIT
SHOULD LEAK.

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4. SEVERAL FACTORS WILL NEED TO BE CONSIDERED BEFORE A FINAL DECISION ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS REACHED: (A) WE WOULD FIRST NEED TO LET THE DUST SETTLE FROM THE QUADRIPARTITE DECLARATION ON BERLIN ISSUED IN LONDON ON MAY 10. WE HAVE NOT YET HAD THE OFFICIAL SOVIET REACTION TO THAT DECLARATION, AND IN ANY CASE IT WOULD SEEM INCONSISTENT TO ANNOUNCE THE IVANOVSKIY VISIT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DECLARATION; THAT IS WHY WE SUGGEST WAITING UNTIL AROUND JUNE 1. (B) BEFORE ISSUANCE, IT WILL ALSO BE NECESSARY TO CLEAR THE ANNOUNCEMENT WITH THE FRG, TO GIVE IT TIME TO PREPARE ANSWERS TO THE INEVITABLE QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND THE OPPOSITION AS TO WHAT ROLE THE FRG PLAYED IN ARRANGING, APPROVING OR CONTROLLING THE VISIT. (C) FINALLY, IT MUST BE CONSIDERED WHETHER THE ANNOUNCEMENT

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SHOULD BE CLEARED WITH THE SOVIETS (WHO CUSTOMARILY DO NOT ANNOUNCE OFFICIAL TRAVELS FAR IN ADVANCE).

5. IF SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT IS TO BE MADE, THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BACKGROUND FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON PRIOR VISITS -- THEIR FREQUENCY, EXTENT, ETC. -- IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO FOLLOW-UP PRESS INQUIRIES.

6. MEDIA COVERAGE DURING THE VISIT. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE VISIT SHOULD BE TREATED IN A ROUTINE, OPEN MANNER. THERE WILL BE MEDIA INTEREST (PARTICULARLY FROM TV) GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE EVENT AND WE SHOULD RESPOND TO IT WITHOUT, HOWEVER, ENCOURAGING IT UNDULY. ACCREDITED JOURNALISTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO COVER THE VISIT TO SOME EXTENT. WE REALIZE THAT THIS WILL POSE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS, BUT THE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE UNPALATABLE AND WOULD IN ANY CASE

AROUSE EXCESSIVE INTEREST IN THE FRG. WE THEREFORE
DOUBT THAT WE HAVE MUCH CHOICE IN THE MATTER.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE CONCERNING TIMING OF
AN ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VISIT, THE NEED FOR
CLEARING SUCH ANNOUNCEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS, THE
EXTENT AND TYPE OF HONORS TO BE GIVEN CINCSFG, AND THE
HANDLING OF MEDIA INTEREST DURING THE VISIT.
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